

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KIGALI 01388 191123Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6542
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 1388

KINSHASA FOR DATT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, RW, UG
SUBJECT: GOR COMMENTS ON SITUATION IN UGANDA

REF KIGALI 1355 (NOTAL)

1. IN CONVERSATION AUGUST 18, I TOLD ACTING FONMIN
RENZAHO THAT I HAD HEARD MANY RUMORS LATELY ABOUT
INCREASED TENSIONS IN UGANDA AND MOVEMENT OF RWANDAN
TROOPS TOWARD UGANDAN BORDER. I ASKED HIM WHETHER
THERE WERE NEW PROBLEMS BETWEEN RWANDA AND UGANDA
THAT I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT.

2. RENZAHO SAID THAT TENSIONS HAD IN FACT GROWN IN
RECENT WEEKS, DUE TO A NUMBER OF FACTORS, BUT HAD
EASED IN LAST FEW DAYS. PRINCIPAL FACTORS WERE INTERNAL
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PAGE 02 KIGALI 01388 191123Z

POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN UGANDA, NOTABLY GROWING TENSION
BETWEEN AMIN AND MOSLEM GROUP; AND UNEASINESS AMONG
MINORITY (TUTSI) GROUPS IN RWANDA WHO MISUNDERSTOOD PRUPOSE
OF CURRENT NATIONAL CENSUS.

A. INTERNALLY, RENZAHO SAID, UGANDA WAS STILL
SUFFERING SHOCK WAVES FOLLOWING "ACCIDENT" INVOLVING VICE

PRESIDENT, SACKING OF FINANCE MINISTER, AND SHOOTING ATTACK UPON SECURITY CHIEF. AMIN NATURALLY (BUT WRONGLY) TENDED TO DIRECT BLAME AT FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING RWANDANS, IN UGANDA. DECLARING HE EXPECTED AN INVASION BY TANZANIAN AND RWANDAN FORCES, AMIN MOVED LARGE CONTINGENTS OF UGANDAN ARMY INTO POSITION ALONG SOUTHERN BORDERS. IN THE PROCESS, HE ALSO HASSLED RWANDAN REFUGEES LIVING IN BORDER AREAS.

B. MEANWHILE, WITHIN RWANDAN, NATIONAL CENSUS WHICH BEGAN AUGUST 16 AROUSED FEARS AMONG TUTSIS THAT IT PRESAGED PAHARAOH-TYPE MASSACRES. SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF TUTSIS, IN BOTH SOUTHERN RWANDA AND IN NORTH ALONG UGANDA BORDER, PAKED UP AND FLED THE COUNTRY AS A CONSEQUENCE, AHEAD OF THE CENSUS-TAKERS. GIVEN HISTORY OF FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR REBEL ACTIVITY BEYOND ITS BORDERS, GOR WORRIED THAT THIS MOVEMENT OF POTENTIAL REBELS COULD LEAD TO VIVIVED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.

3. RENZAHU ALSO COMMENTED THAT HE HAD HEARD VOA BROADCAST DESCRIBING DIFFICULTIES IN UGANDA AND ASSERTING THAT SOME 3,000 RWANDAN REFUGEES HAD CROSSED INTO THAT COUNTRY AS A RESULT OF CENSUS FEARS. RENZAHU INSISTED THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY TEN TIMES RPT TEN TIMES AS MANY RWANDANS AS HAD ACTUALLY LEFT THE COUNTRY. HE FELT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE VOA WAS LENDING CREDENCE TO RUMORS WHICH HAD DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON ALL-IMPORTANT NATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KIGALI 01388 191123Z

CENSUS CURRENTLY UNDER WAY.

4. COMMENT: RENZAHU DID NOT SAY SO DIRECTLY, BUT IT APPEARS THAT THESE WORRIES DID RESULT IN RWANDA MOVING ITS OWN TROOPS INTO BORDER AREAS, PARTLY, WE ASSUME, TO COUNTER UGANDA TROOP MOVEMENTS, BUT PARTLY, WE SUSPECT, TO DISCOURAGE FLIGHT OF RWANDANS THEMSELVES. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT RENZAHU IS CORRECT THAT TENSIONS HAVE EASED IN RECENT DAYS. CERTAINLY GOR IS DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE, VIA RADIO, PRESS, AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES, TO REASSURE POPULATION THAT NATIONAL CENSUS IS AN IMPORTANT POSITIVE MOVE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT. AS DEPT KNOWS, WE STRONGLY SHARE THIS VIEW, AS CENSUS WILL PROVIDE FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION FOR FORMULATING NATIONAL DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY.
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